



# Chairman's Newsletter

Number 33. January, 1987.

## FORECAST FOR THE NEW YEAR.

As we enter 1987, we're pleased to report that all is well with ISASC. At the moment, the membership of our North American Chapter is at an all-time high of 215, and while we can expect the inevitable fallout among the few who have yet to pay their dues, we should "settle down" to a number of 200-plus. Reports from our European brethren indicate that their membership is constant at a figure of approximately 100, so we're more than holding our own on a worldwide basis. The following item reflects our feeling about the state of our Society in the year that's just past and the one that lies ahead.

## KUDOS TO MAKE US FEEL GOOD.

Invariably, at dues-paying time, we hear from a number of members, some of whom send us a brief note, others a letter of some length, along with their remittance. Our thanks to all who took the time to write, and especially for the nice sentiments that were expressed. Here are some excerpts from letters we received:

"Certainly a highlight of 1986 was my joining ISASC and attending the convention in Washington. We both enjoy Equilibrium very much and think the 10th Anniversary issue was outstanding."

Gloria Lipfert

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"As a first year member of ISASC, I would like to let you know how much I'm enjoying the information provided in the newsletters (Editor's note: Meaning, most likely, EQM). Looking forward to the next quarterly and, hopefully, the next convention."

Cynthia Douglass

"We recently spent a most enjoyable holiday in Thailand and Indonesia, collecting scales, of course. Ray got 39, so he was happy. We are eagerly awaiting the latest details about the seminar next May."

Eileen and Ray Park  
(Western Australia)

WHICH BRINGS US TO MAY.

Approximately three months from now, our 1987 convention will take place, and we've already heard from a good number of members indicating their intention to be a part of it. The dates are May 1 to 3, the place is Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California, and before the month is out, you should be receiving a special mailing from Jan Macho, convention chairman, containing detailed information and a reservation form. We urge you to respond promptly, as our Society has been given a block of hotel rooms at a very special rate and we must confirm or release them well before the convention.

EQM 10TH ANNIVERSARY POSTSCRIPT.

Everyone who saw fit to acknowledge the four pages of scales in living color in our 10th Anniversary issue of EQM did so in glowing terms. Editor Michael Crawforth, who saw the project through from start to finish, was particularly pleased with the way it turned out,



and our collective regret is that high production costs preclude our continuing the practice at least once every year or two. However, let's hope we can afford it during our 15th Anniversary year.

GARY BATZ TO THE FORE.

In mid-1986, long-standing member Gary Batz of Canada was elected an ISASC director, and at a directors' meeting in Chicago this past November, he agreed to assume some substantial fiscal responsibilities previously handled by your president. Gary's an accountant by profession (equivalent to a CPA in the U.S.), and quickly picked up (and then some) on fiscal matters turned over to him. He's indicated he'd prefer being considered "acting" treasurer of the North American Chapter during the current year, and we, of course, are hopeful that for 1988 and beyond he'll be willing to drop the "acting" and assume the title without any adornments. For the present, however, we're both pleased and relieved to see our fiscal affairs in such capable hands. Thank you, Gary, for joining ISASC's management team.

LITERARY OPPORTUNITY.

If you'd like to write an article on your own scale collection, scales in general, or anything having to do with metrology, here's your opportunity to not only write it but to see it published. Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter from Antiques & Collecting Hobbies magazine inviting any of our members who aspire to write about their hobby to contact the publication and pursue the idea. And if you do write an article, please make mention of ISASC and invite readers to write us for membership information. We've never seen it to fail that when such articles make note of our existence, they evoke numerous inquiries that result in a number of new members.

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## SMALL WORLD DEPARTMENT.

If you own any postal scales (and who among us doesn't), you may remember an item in a Chairman's Newsletter several years ago describing an occasion when I met the Chicago postmaster, Frank Goldie, at a social function, told him of my hobby, and invited him to dinner at the Steins to view 300 or so letter and parcel scales. He forthrightly accepted, came to dinner with his wife, and viewed with considerable awe more postal scales than he'd ever believed could be found under one roof. This was the start of the kind of friendship that collectors are likely to make from time to time as they pursue their hobby.

Enter "small world" coincidence. In the course of my business life, I had come to know Preston R. (Bob) Tisch, one of the principal owners of Loews Hotels, and our friendship covered a period of many years. Lo and behold, in mid-1986 an item in the Chicago Sun-Times caught my eye to the effect that Bob was leaving his business interests to take on the position of Postmaster General of the U.S. In short order, I called him in Washington D.C., congratulated him on his appointment (a presidential one, no less), and told him of my scale collection (which, in prior years, I'd had no occasion to tell him about).

As might be expected, he expressed keen interest, and I proceeded to send him two articles about my collection, information about ISASC, several copies of EQM, and an invitation to dinner at the Stein house (with Frank Goldie and wife) when he had occasion to visit Chicago. He responded a few days later, and I'm herewith sharing his letter (presently filed under "Great Coincidences"). Should Bob find the opportunity to see the Stein collection during a visit to Chicago, I'll report the event in detail in a future Newsletter.



## A SALUTE TO FRITZ SCHMERL.

Fritz Schmerl, a long-time ISASC member and an esteemed medical practitioner, has recently published a book titled The Challenge of Age: A Guide to Growing Older in Health and Happiness. No one is better qualified on the subject, as this year marks the observance of Fritz's 86th birthday. Born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1901, he received his medical degree at the University of Leipzig in 1926. After two years of practice in China, he moved to Oakland, California, where he became Chief of Geriatrics at Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro until he retired in 1975. He helped found the Home for Jewish Parents and served on the Advisory Council to Legal Assistance for Seniors, the American Diabetes Association, and Ombudsman, Inc., a program designed to involve citizens in confronting problems found in nursing homes. Fritz was named Senior of the Year in 1981 by the American Society on Aging, and today is senior member of the medical staff of Samuel Merritt Hospital in Oakland, specializing in the socio-medical aspects of old age.

His book challenges myths about aging, and is a combination of sound medical advice and inspirational reflections on life. The publisher is The Continuum Publishing Company, the distributor is Harper & Row, and the book is now available in book stores. Our congratulations to Dr. Fritz Schmerl!

## AND AN 80-GUN SALUTE TO "DOC" SCHWANDERMAN.

Last April a most interesting article appeared in the Portland (Indiana) Commercial-Review describing the various collections of O.H. "Doc" Schwanderman, now verging on 80 years of age. Doc is a scale collector, of course, and a member of ISASC, but there's no

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limit to what else he collects. According to the article, "One of these days his multi-thousand items of collected county memorabilia will be in the Jay County Museum." Besides scales, Doc collects Indian relics, antique typewriters, farm tools and equipment, silver spoons, iron pressure cookers, cupcake molds, medals, stone hammers, watches, and old books. Keeping up with his collections and organizing them for eventual transfer to the Jay County Museum takes up most of his time these days, and sometimes when he uncovers collections he'd forgotten about, there's some question in his mind whether he'll ever record everything he's got. Don't lose faith, Doc. You can do it.

#### MISCELLANY.

\*Every year Irvin Gendler responds to our dues billing by sending us \$50, the extra \$15 representing a contribution to our exchequer. Thank you again, Irvin.

\*Oops, we goofed. The previous Chairman's Newsletter in October should have been numbered 32, but was inadvertently numbered 31, which explains why this one is number 33. If you're a stickler for statistical propriety, you can change the number on the October issue from 31 to 32 (artistically, please).

\*Enclosed is a current list of our library offerings, once again reminding you that your metrology library won't mean as much to you unless you avail yourself of our various publications. Particularly worth having is a full set of EQM's, the EQM Index, and Michael Crawforth's immensely valuable Handbook of Old Weighing Instruments. A word to the wise...

\*Also enclosed is the latest supplement to our membership directory. In April, we'll be sending you the new one for 1987.

I hope to see you all in California this May. Happy collecting!

Fraternally,

